

REMARKS

Claims 11-25 are pending in the application. Claims 18-20 have been amended above to replace a comma at the end of each claim with a period. Moreover, an Abstract and section headings have been inserted into the application in this Reply. Finally, the Applicant has amended the specification to conform it with the numerals used in Figures 2 & 3. No new matter has been added to the application by way of these application amendments.

The Examiner's specification and claim objections and rejections are overcome or traversed as set forth below.

I. THE DRAWING OBJECTION

The Examiner objected to the drawings because they do not include a reference to item (3) in Figure 2. This objection has been overcome by amending the specification to refer to delete reference to item "3" at page 6, line 5 and to replace it with item "3A". This amendment causes the specification to conform to the reference numerals used in Figures 2 and 3.

II. THE SPECIFICATION OBJECTION

A. The Abstract Objection

The Examiner objected to the specification because it lacks an Abstract. The specification has been amended to include an Abstract. A copy of an Abstract page is attached to this reply.

B. The Specification Objection

The Examiner objected to the specification because it lacks the section headings

suggested by the USPTO. The objection has been overcome by adding certain, optional headings into the specification.

III. THE ANTICIPATION REJECTION

The Examiner rejected claims 12-25 for being anticipated by Iwafume (EP 0756423).

Iwafume does not anticipate the claimed invention. Iwafume discloses an interactive television system for providing selected programs for subscribers. Television program IDs and all other relevant program information are registered in a database server (e.g. column 7, lines 43 - 45 and column 8, lines 16 - 29). According to Iwafume, a selection menu is formed on the basis of the program information and the selection menu is delivered to subscribers as a multiplexed broadcast transmission (column 15, lines 19 - 22).

What Iwafume discloses is a method for distributing programs, where program information is gathered typically in a database and a selection menu to be delivered to subscribers is formed on the basis of the database records. The selection menu is typically multiplexed and sent to subscribers, who select a desired program from the menu. The desired programs are delivered in their own multiplex, independently of selection menu multiplex. In other words, the program multiplex is not utilized when forming the selection menu.

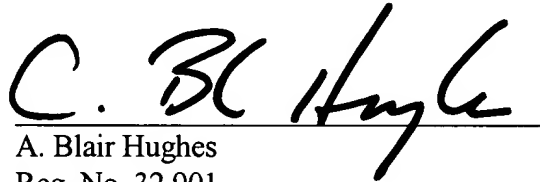
The claims of the present invention are characterized in that the selection menu is formed by using the identification and control data of the services located in the multiplex frames used for service transmission. The identification and control data are used for forming the selection menu to be displayed to the subscriber. In other words, the program multiplex, particularly the control and identification data of said multiplex, is utilized when forming the selection menu.

Iwafume does not disclose this kind of solution. To the contrary, Iwafume teaches a skilled man to gather the program information in a database and to form a separate multiplex for the selection menu. Therefore, according to the Applicant, the cited reference discloses a solution, which is very different from the invention defined in the Applicant's claims 12 - 25.

In view of the Abstract and specification amendments and in view of the statements in favor of patentability presented above it is believed that pending claims 12-25 of this application are allowable. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the pending application claims is therefore courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

McDonnell Boehnen Hulbert & Berghoff.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Blair Hughes", is written over a horizontal line.

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